

John Caldwell Calhoun to Andrew Jackson, March 30, 1823, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY CALHOUN TO JACKSON.

Washington, March 30, 1823.

My dear Sir, Incessant application to official duties since the commencement of the late session of Congress compelled me to suspend wholly my private correspondence, which I hope you will accept as an apology for not acknowledging your favour of the 12th Decr. last, at an earlier period.

I find few with whom, I accord so fully in relation to political subjects, as yourself. I have a thorough conviction, that the noble maxim of your's, to do right and fear not is the very basis, not only of Republicanism, according to its true acceptation, but of all political virtue; and, that he who acts on it, must in the end prevail. The political gamblers will fail. The cause of the Georgian is, if I mistake not, rapidly declining. It has no foundation in truth, and can only be propped, by false pretenses. Should he fail in New York, as I think he must, he will have not the least prospect of success.

Mr Clay, I think, is not advancing on this side of the mountains, tho' his friends speak confidently of his strength to the West. They expect him to be nominated in Louis[i]ana, during this session.

Our news from Europe has been interesting, and I expect will be still more so by the next arrival. It is not improbable, that a mighty contest has commenced there not for commerce, or territory, but to crush any vestige of liberty on the continent of Europe. In its progress, it will probably approach our shores, as Cuba will be involved in all likelihood in the course

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of events. That England looks to that Island; and will be ready to seize on it, if a favourable opportunity offers, can hardly be doubted, and that such an event would be full of danger to this union, is not less clear. I deem the moment important, and do think the country ought to be prepared for the worst. Without Cuba our confederacy is not complete; and with it in the hands of the English, the best line of communication between the entrance ports, would be intercepted.

Say to Col Gadsden, if you please, that I will write him in a few days; and that the President has selected him to treat with the Indians in Florida, which I hope he may find convenient to accept. I think his chance of being confirmed as adjutant genl at the next session is good.

With sincere respect and esteem